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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to learn of the death of Robert J. Cunningham Sr. of Danville; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Cunningham Sr. was born on March 18, 1934, in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin; his parents were Glenn and Marie (Thill) Cunningham; and

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WHEREAS, Robert Cunningham Sr. attended Hooton School, which he lovingly called Hooton Tech, and Danville High School, where he graduated in 1952; from 1953 to 1956, he proudly served in the United States Army with the 14th Armored Cavalry and spent two years in Germany; he was subsequently appointed to attend the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy in Munich, Germany, and was appointed an instructor in field operations upon returning to his base; he then turned down attending Commissioned Officers Academy in the United States and retired as a staff sergeant; and

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WHEREAS, In 1957, Robert Cunningham Sr. joined the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers Union; as a welder, he traveled to many parts of the United States with his brother-in-law and best friend, Kenny Laws, as his welding partner; in 1975, he was elected to serve as the business manager/secretary treasurer of Local 60; while in his second

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1 term in this position, he was asked to join the international
2 staff in the newly-created construction division as an
3 international representative; for five years prior to his
4 retirement, he also served as assistant to the international
5 president; he served on the international staff until January
6 of 1993; and

7 WHEREAS, Wishing to retire at the age of 60, Robert
8 Cunningham Sr. returned to the field for one final year Bobby
9 Jr. and Mark, who had both graduated from the Boilermakers
10 Apprenticeship program; on the last day of March 1993, he said
11 goodbye to his fellow workers and hung up his welding hat and
12 lunch box; having turned 60 that month, he realized his dream;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Robert Cunningham Sr. was involved with numerous
15 community organizations; he was very proud of the Hooton
16 community and helped with the placing of the marker stone where
17 the Hooton School had been and the signs and flower gardens at
18 14th Street and Ross Lane; he served as a Democratic precinct
19 committeeman for several years and was always eager to help
20 anyone in his community; he was involved in the creation of the
21 Vermilion County Nursing Home Foundation and served on the
22 foundation board for several years; he accompanied the youth
23 from Central Christian Church on their youth mission trips on
24 several occasions and formed lasting relationships with the

1 young people; he also enjoyed fundraising for political
2 candidates; and

3 WHEREAS, Robert Cunningham Sr. enjoyed working on his
4 classic cars, fishing with his grandchildren, attending his
5 grandchildren's school and sports events, going on trips and
6 cruises with his wife, hunting mushrooms, and tending his
7 flower gardens; and

8 WHEREAS, Robert Cunningham Sr. was preceded in death by his
9 parents; his first wife, Barbara (Taylor) Cunningham; his
10 brother-in-law, Kenny Laws; and his grandson, Tommy Smith; and

11 WHEREAS, Robert Cunningham Sr. is survived by his wife,
12 Carol; his sons, Mark and Robert Jr.; his daughter, Susie
13 Gaudio; his stepson, Doug (Charlotte Bailey) Hanson; his
14 grandchildren, Cassie (Johnny) Thomas, Kasey (Eric) Antonini,
15 Robert Cunningham III, Nick Gaudio, and Markie Cunningham; his
16 sister, Shirley Laws; his sister-in-law, Anita (Ron) Jenkins;
17 his great-grandchildren, Kindall, Jesse, Taren, and Kenny; his
18 several cousins; his nieces and nephews; his aunt, Doris Thill;
19 and his wonderful friends and his church family at Central
20 Christian Church; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
22 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with

1 his family and friends, the passing of Robert J. Cunningham
2 Sr.; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
4 presented to the family of Robert Cunningham Sr. as an
5 expression of our sympathy.